(c) and (d) At present there is no decision to make these appendices public.

Procurement of F-16s by Pakistan from Belgium

2068. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reaction of the Government to Pakistan's formal request to Belgium to procure F-16s from it and the Belgium's acceptance of the request made by Pakistan;

(b) whether F-16s can carry nuclear warheads; and

(c) if so, how it affects the security of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The issue of Pakistan's formal request to Belgium to procure F-16s was taken up with the Belgian authorities in September, 2003. Given the sensitivity of the geo-political situation in South Asia, the Belgian Government took a conscious decision not to sell F-16s fighter aircrafts to Pakistan. This matter has not come to the notice of Government since then.

(b) Yes, Sir. F-16s are nuclear capable.

(c) The range of F-16s would cover a number of civilian and military facilities in Northern India. The increase in strength of F-16s with Pakistan would adversely affect the current balance of air power between India and Pakistan Air Forces.

Integrated National Aerospace Command and Control System

2069. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been apprised of the need to set up an Integrated National Aerospace Command and Control System; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the concerned Defence and Aviation Authorities to put the system in place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government has been apprised of the need to set up an Aerospace Command. However, there is no decision of the Government of India to set up this Command, as yet.